

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A font downloading apparatus for downloading fonts to a character output apparatus, comprising:

a selector for allowing one of character coding
5 schemes supported by the character output apparatus to be selected if the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used on the character output apparatus;

a converter for converting the character coding
scheme of the fonts into the character coding scheme
10 selected via the selector; and

a downloader for downloading the fonts whose character coding scheme has been converted by the converter onto the character output apparatus.

15 2. The font downloading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: an acquisition unit for acquiring coding schemes supported by the character output apparatus from the character output apparatus; and a determination unit for determining that the
20 character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes acquired by the acquisition unit do not contain the character coding scheme of the fonts.

25 3. The font downloading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a storage for storing the type of the character output apparatus and character coding

schemes supported by the character output apparatus by associating them with each other; and a determination unit for determining that the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes associated with the character output apparatus do not contain the character coding scheme of the fonts.

4. A font downloading method for downloading fonts to a character output apparatus, comprising:

a selection step of allowing one of character coding schemes supported by the character output apparatus to be selected if the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used on the character output apparatus;

a conversion step of converting the character coding scheme of the fonts into the character coding scheme selected in the selection step; and

a step of downloading the fonts whose character coding scheme has been converted in the conversion step onto the character output apparatus.

5. The font downloading method according to claim 4, further comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring coding schemes supported by the character output apparatus from the character output apparatus; and a step of determining

that the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes acquired in the acquisition step do not contain the character coding scheme of the fonts.

5 6. The font downloading method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of reading character coding schemes supported by the character output apparatus and stored being associated with the type of the character output apparatus out of storage means and determining
10 that the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes associated with the character output apparatus do not contain the character coding scheme of the fonts.

15 7. A computer program product for downloading fonts to a character output apparatus, comprising:

 code for a selection step of allowing one of character coding schemes supported by the character output apparatus to be selected if the character coding
20 scheme of the fonts cannot be used on the character output apparatus;

 code for a conversion step of converting the character coding scheme of the fonts into the character coding scheme selected in the selection step; and

25 code for a step of downloading the fonts whose character coding scheme has been converted in the conversion step onto the character output apparatus.

8. The computer program according to claim 7, further comprising: code for an acquisition step of acquiring coding schemes supported by the character output
5 apparatus from the character output apparatus; and code for a step of determining that the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes acquired in the acquisition step do not contain the character coding
10 scheme of the fonts.

9. The computer program according to claim 7, further comprising: code for a storage step of storing the type of the character output apparatus and character coding
15 schemes supported by the character output apparatus by associating them with each other; and code for a step of determining that the character coding scheme of the fonts cannot be used by the character output apparatus if the coding schemes associated with the character
20 output apparatus do not contain the character coding scheme of the fonts.

10. The font downloading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein after being converted by the conversion
25 means, character codes are further converted into printer character codes by the character output apparatus.

11. The font downloading apparatus according to claim
10, wherein, the character codes after conversion by
the conversion means are Unicode character codes while
5 the printer character codes are Western European,
Cyrillic, or other character codes associated with a
language or region.